

DOCKET NO. SC115072C

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed May 10, 2004, pending claims 1 and 4-27 were examined. Claims 19-24 were allowed, claims 1, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 25-27 were rejected and claims 4-9, 12-14, 17 and 18 were objected to. In response, Applicants are herein amending claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 15, 18, 25-27 and canceling claims 4, 12, 16 and 17, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in connection with which signal is compared to a recited threshold value. In response, claim 27 is amended to clearly recite that when a phase detected output (the output of phase detector 4) of an input signal, IF, exceeds a threshold value, the recited injection-locked demodulator is tuned. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 27 removes the clarity issue raised by the Examiner and that the stated rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Santos (U.S. Patent 4,578,594). Santos discloses a bipolar transistor circuit for enabling and disabling a differential signal output from a memory by using current steering. Amended claim 15 includes the recitals of claim 17 which was objected to and therefore is in condition for allowance. The recitals of claim 16 were included in base claim 15 and claim 16 was accordingly canceled.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Malchow (U.S. Patent 4,370,520). Malchow teaches an AM stereo receiver with automatic gain control of two characteristics depending upon whether the receiver is being tuned. As illustrated in FIG. 3 of Malchow a comparator provides a signal to a pulse forming network that is used as an input to an automatic gain control circuit. Claim 25 is amended to recite a method that uses five current mirrors to provide an AFC signal in the form of an output current. Two recited current paths are selectively disabled from providing the output current. As taught by Applicants at page 3, lines

DOCKET NO. SC11507ZC

14-16, et seq., the disabling of the AFC signal allows the use of a small capacitor in filter 8 of FIG. 1 that can be efficiently integrated onto a single integrated circuit. Malchow does not teach the recited current mirroring method of amended claim 25. Withdrawal of the stated rejection is requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Main (U.S. Patent 5,650,749) in view of Saka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,023,491). In response, claim 1 is herein amended to include the recitals of claim 4 which was indicated to be allowable. Therefore, Applicants request the removal of the rejection of claim 1.

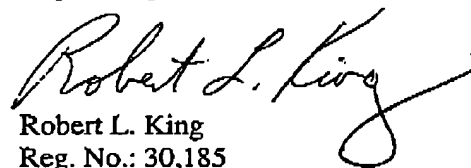
Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Main (U.S. Patent 5,650,749) and Saka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,023,491) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Malchow (U.S. Patent 4,370,520). Claims 10 and 11 are dependent from claim 1. With the amendment to claim 1 described above, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 10 and 11.

Claims 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ma (U.S. Patent 6,138,802) in view of Malchow (U.S. Patent 4,370,520). Claims 26 and 27 are each amended to distinguish this combination of references. Neither Ma nor Malchow disclose "providing a differential current at first and second inputs" or "coupling a plurality of current mirrors between the first and second inputs and an output terminal" as recited in amended claim 26. Neither Ma nor Malchow disclose "combining first and second current portions from the plurality of current mirrors to form an output current" as recited in amended claim 26. Neither Ma nor Malchow teach "tuning the injection-locked demodulator when a phase detected output of an input signal exceeds a threshold value determined by relative sizes of transistors that form current mirrors in a tuning circuit of the modulator; and allowing only that portion of the AFC signal that exceeds the threshold value to serially pass to an AFC filter and an oscillator" are recited in amended claim 27. Applicants therefore request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26 and 27.

DOCKET NO. SC11507ZC

Applicants thank the Examiner for the efforts expended in again reviewing this application and respectfully request the allowance of all the pending claims in addition to previously allowed claims 19-24.

Respectfully submitted,



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